



JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

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PLEASE NOTE

As stated in our last number, your senior editor, James Clifford, is on sabbatical leave for the year. The next item gives some news of his current Johnsonian activities while in England. For those of you who may wish to correspond with him, he can always be reached care American Express, Haymarket, London. Meanwhile, your assistant editor wishes to thank everyone who has submitted copy for the present number, and urges you to continue to send in your contributions. Your notes, queries, news, and comments will help considerably to keep the JNL going smoothly until our senior editor's return.

JOHNSON NOTES

The birthday celebrations this year at Lichfield and New York were great successes. Though we have received no word as yet from our usual fellow Johnsonians in Oslo and Buenos Aires, we assume they did not allow September 18th to pass unnoticed. From Jim Clifford we have received an enthusiastic account of the Lichfield affair. The afternoon ceremonies were held under bright, sunny skies: the ceremony of laying the wreath on the statue of Johnson in the market-place was attended by many, among them Joyce Hemlow and Rea Keast, and the procession, from the Guildhall to the statue, of officials and scholars in full regalia or cap and gown, was made more impressive and colorful by sword and mace bearers. For the evening supper the Guildhall was filled to capacity by some 170 persons. After a meal including beef steak, kidney pudding, and the traditional ale and punch, toasts to "The Queen" and to "The Royal Family" were followed by the installation of Jim Clifford as President. The new President proposed the toast to "The Immortal Memory" and delivered his

address, which was mainly a plea for more reading of Johnson's works but which also included observations on the new Yale edition and on plans for the future. More toasts and good talk followed--all in all, an occasion marked by warmth and good feeling, and one which owed very much indeed to Dr. James Hurst, whose devotion and energy have contributed largely to the health and success of the Johnson Society of Lichfield. First recognition of the event came in the form of a long editorial in the Birmingham Post on the following Monday, in which the new President's point was again emphasized--that Johnson's writings contain much that is pertinent for our age.

In New York, although a number of the most ardent Johnsonians were either abroad or otherwise prevented from attending, some thirty persons dined at the Grolier Club on the twentieth, with James M. Osborn in the Chair. The highlight of the evening was a delightful and perceptive talk by Walter Jackson Bate on Johnson's humor. He stressed the variety and range of Johnson's humor, and convincingly related it to the complexities of Johnson's psychology. Herman W. Liebert was elected Chairman for the coming year. Each guest received, as a memento of the occasion, a beautifully printed pamphlet entitled "A Constellation of Genius; Being a Full Account Of the Trial of Joseph Barette For the Murder of Evan Morgan, Held at Justice-Hall in the Old-Bailey, On 20 October 1769." Reprinted for the first time from the original records, illustrated with the title and final pages of the court report of the trial, and introduced and annotated by Herman Liebert, the pamphlet provides a fascinating glimpse into eighteenth-century London life and adds considerably to our knowledge of the Johnson circle. It is sure to be treasured by all those who received a copy. The evening ended with much exciting talk about possible ways of celebrating the gala year 1959. A wonderful evening, long to be remembered!

The program of monthly meetings of the Johnson Society of London for 1958-59 includes the following talks: 18 October, G. P. Gooch, "Anglo-French Contacts in the Age of Johnson. Part II"; 15 November, James L. Clifford, "Johnson and the Americans"; 13 December, Sir Sydney Roberts, "The Author of the Rambler"; 17 January, John Butt, "The Poetry of Johnson and of Pope"; 14 February, William R. Keast, "Editing Johnson's

Lives"; 14 March, T. D. Fitzgerald, "The Search for Good Sense"; 18 April, Aubrey Noakes, "The Gordon Riots"; 9 May, Miss D. Mahany, "Dr. Johnson and Jane Austen." The meetings are held at 3 p.m. at the Kenilworth Hotel, Great Russell Street, London W.C.1. News Letter subscribers who are in London at any of these times are sure to be cordially welcomed by members of the Society.

From Bertram H. Davis (Staff Associate, AAUP) comes news that we will all welcome. Sometime early next year he hopes to have completed an abridged edition of Hawkins' Life of Johnson, to be published by Macmillan. Those of us familiar with Hawkins' work will understand the publisher's decision to abridge and can appreciate the difficulty of Davis's task. We wish him success in his venture. The prospect of a scholarly edition, complete with introduction and notes, is indeed exciting. The work, the first edition of Hawkins since the original publication in 1787, will make readily available much important biographical material and may do much to alter our notions about the relative contributions of both Boswell and Hawkins to our understanding of Johnson.

Among other papers bearing upon the Restoration and eighteenth-century periods presented at the meetings of the English Institute in September was one of particular interest to Johnsonians: "The Use and Abuse of Internal Evidence (examples from Smart and Johnson)," by Arthur Sherbo (Mich. State). We asked Sherbo to summarize his major points for us, and he kindly complied. "After establishing definitions of internal and external evidence," he writes, "I attempted to accomplish three specific tasks: 1. to recall to scholars the forgotten review by Johnson of Dr. Hawkesworth's adaptation of Thomas Southerne's Oroonoko which appeared in the Critical Review, VIII (Dec. 1749); 2. to show that Johnson had no part in the Preface to James Hampton's translation of Polybius (1756); and 3. to propose that an anonymous 'Essay on Elegies,' appearing in the Universal Museum and Complete Magazine, III (1767), be admitted into the canon of Johnson's prose on the basis of internal evidence alone." As part of his discussion of Johnson's prose style Sherbo questioned "whether Johnson ever used the combination of 'the former' and 'the latter' which, it will be remembered, Boswell said Johnson religiously

avoided." And he also asked, what had already been asked of him in private discussions of the "Essay on Elegies" with other Johnsonians, "whether Johnson (other than in the Dictionary) made a nice distinction between 'less' and 'fewer' and whether any sentence fragments can be found in the canon." Sherbo would like to hear from anybody who can provide answers to these questions from the accepted canon of Johnson's work. He would also welcome comments on his brief for admission of the "Essay on Elegies" into the canon.

The Magazine Section of the Newark Sunday News for April 27, 1958, contains a popular, illustrated account of the growth and nature of the well-known Johnsonian collection of Donald and Mary Hyde at Four Oaks Farm, Somerville, N. J.

Has anyone heard the BBC feature programme on Francis Barber? We learned this summer that it was being planned, but nothing about the date of its presentation.

The following articles should be mentioned: P. H. Beattie, M.D., "The Ocular Troubles of Dr. Johnson and Mr. Pepys," in Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine for August 1953 (we believe we neglected to list this when it appeared); Sir Russell Brain, "Thomas Lawrence, M. D., P.R.C.P. (1711-83)," in Medical History for October 1957; E. N. Dilworth, "Boswell in America," N & Q for May; Marvin Fisher, "The Pattern of Conservatism in Johnson's Rasselas and Hawthorne's Tales," JHI for April; William Kenney, "Johnson's Rasselas After Two Centuries," in Boston Univ. Studies in English for Summer 1957; Brian Spiller, "The Georgian Brewery" in The Architectural Review for November 1957 (contains photographs of the Barclay Perkins Brewery).

JOHNSON AND NEWMAN

Donald J. Greene (Brandeis) sends in the following:

"In Volume XI of the 1787 edition of Johnson's Works (p. 402), one of Johnson's Latin prayers, printed there for the first time, is said to be 'a metrical version' of the Collect for the seventeenth Sunday after Trinity. This statement, presumably by Bennet Langton (or perhaps the Rev. George

Strahan?), is repeated in the Nichol Smith-McAdam edition of the Poems (p. 207).

"The Collect reads, 'Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.' I fail to see a great deal of similarity between it and Johnson's prayer, which I give here with a rough translation:

Per vitae tenebras rerumque incerta vagantem
As I wander through the darkness and uncertainties
of life,

Numine praesenti me tueare pater!
Guard me [lit. 'look upon me'], Father, with
Thy divine presence.

Me ducat lux sancta, Deus, lux sancta sequatur;
Let Thy holy light lead me, O God, let Thy holy
light follow me;

Usque regat gressus gratia fida meos.
Everywhere let Thy sure grace rule my steps.

Sic peragam tua jussa libens, accinctus ad omne
So shall I gladly fulfil Thy behests, girt for every

Mandatum, vivam sic moriarque tibi.
command: so shall I live and die for Thee.

There is a parallel of sorts, certainly, between the phrase in the Collect 'thy grace may always prevent and follow us' and the third line of Johnson's prayer. Yet the imagery of the prayer--a beam of light guiding wandering footsteps through the darkness--is absent from the Collect; so too is the pervading emotion of the prayer, the feeling of complete and willing obedience, the glad submergence of the speaker's will in the divine will.

"A much closer parallel, it seems to me, in both imagery and mood, is Newman's great hymn:

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!

The night is dark, and I am far from home--
Lead Thou me on!

Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene--one step enough for me.

I need not quote the rest of the familiar poem, in which the image is further elaborated. Like the prayer it shifts from the idea, at the beginning, of fearful, uncertain wandering in the dark, to the idea of glad certainty and security in perfect obedience at the end.

"The light-darkness image occurs, of course, with great frequency in the Bible and the Prayer Book. As close an analogue as any, perhaps, is the conclusion of the Benedictus (Luke, I, 78-9, and the Order for Morning Prayer): 'whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us; to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.' Yet there is something that I find in both the Johnson and the Newman poems that has so far escaped me in the many Biblical and liturgical passages I have consulted--I suppose it is the intensely 'subjective,' personal quality of both prayers, the concreteness and vividness with which the image is applied to the condition of the individual speaker. The mood of both is very reminiscent of that of the Twenty-third Psalm; the psalm, however, does not have the image of the guiding light.

"Can anyone suggest a more satisfactory common source for both poems? Or is anyone bold enough to suggest that Newman may owe something directly to Johnson?"

Coincidentally, we received a note from one of our subscribers, Helen T. Greany, drawing attention to Newman's high praise of Johnson in the Preface to The Idea of a University: "Few men have the gifts of Johnson, who to great vigour and resource of intellect, when it is fairly roused, united a rare common-sense and a conscientious regard for veracity, which preserved him from flippancy and extravagance in writing. Few men are Johnsons; yet how many men at this day are assailed by incessant demands on their mental powers, which only a productiveness like his could suitably supply." Perhaps the

indebtedness of Newman to Johnson is not as unlikely as Greene's final question suggests.

SOME NEW BOOKS

John Harold Wilson (Ohio State) in All the King's Ladies (Univ. of Chicago Press) has presented in lively style a very full account of the careers of the Restoration actresses. Although the rather flamboyant title would suggest a mere popular account stressing only the sensational, the book contains much solid information, the result of careful research, about not only the lives of the "female newcomers," but also their training, their methods of acting, and their relationship to the development of the English theatre. A most useful Appendix presents copious details, biographical and theatrical, about scores of actresses--a much needed supplement to Malcolm Elwin's similar presentation in The Playgoer's Handbook to Restoration Drama.

We have had no time to examine thoroughly Malcolm Goldstein's Pope and the Augustan Stage (Stanford Studies in Lang. and Lit., XVII), which just recently arrived at our desk. Certainly the subject is one which has long deserved attention, for Pope's contacts with the stage and with playwrights were many and lasting. A glance at the Table of Contents and at one or two chapters suggests that Goldstein has carefully examined Pope's theatrical relationships and has contributed to our understanding of his view of the drama. More of this in a later number.

Though, strictly speaking, not to be listed under "New Books," we mention a handsomely printed 40-page monograph printed by The New York Public Library--"Printing as an Index of Taste in Eighteenth Century England," by Bertrand H. Bronson. Here, in brief, is an introduction to an often poorly-understood aspect of eighteenth-century literary life, and to such fascinating details of eighteenth-century book-making as book size, type-faces, illustrations, and the make-up of title-pages. The illustrations are superb.

Also to be mentioned is a fresh reprinting of Bertrand Bronson's Poems and Selected Prose of Johnson (Rinehart

Editions), which now includes the whole of Rasselas. The book will be welcomed especially by those who have long waited for a cheap, accurate text of Johnson's tale for their classes.

Other new books to be listed: Irvin Ehrenpreis, The Personality of Jonathan Swift (Methuen); Arthur Leslie Morton, The Everlasting Gospel: a Study in the Sources of William Blake (Lawrence & Wishart); Paul and Miriam Mueschke, A New View of Congreve's 'Way of the World' (Univ. of Mich.); Geoffrey Tillotson, Pope and Human Nature (Oxford); Peter J. Stanlis, Edmund Burke and the Natural Law (Univ. of Mich.).

Possibly some of you have already seen copies of the following, listed for early publication: The Works of Matthew Prior, edited by H. Bunker Wright and Monroe K. Spears (Oxford English Texts); Dryden's Poems, edited by James Kinsley (Oxford English Texts); Burke's Sublime and Beautiful, edited by J. T. Boulton (Columbia Univ. Press); Margaret Bottrall, Studies in Seventeenth-Century Autobiography; Cyril Pearl, Bawdy Burns; Donald Davie, The Late Augustans; E.M.W. Tillyard, Seven English Epic Writers; Raymond Williams, Culture and Society (1780-1950); O. A. Sherrard, Lord Chatham on America; Patrick Pringle, The Thief Takers: A Study of the Prevention of Crime from 1750-1850; Locke's Reasonableness of Christianity, edited by I. T. Ramsay (Stanford); A. S. Turberville, The House of Lords in the Age of Reform, 1787-1837. A rich harvest indeed! And these are merely those we happen to have noted.

ADDISON'S L'ALLEGRO

From Louis T. Milic (Columbia) we have received the following interesting speculation:

"Near the end of his paper on laughter (Spectator 249), Addison requests his reader's indulgence to set down 'at length' Milton's characterization of mirth in L'Allegro. Twenty-two lines from the poem round out the paper. I wonder whether Addison actually copied out the poem in longhand or merely sent the book to the printer with the passage marked and perhaps instructions to use as much as he might need to fill out the column, the available editorial space (owing to the advertisements) varying daily.

"The reason for this speculation is that in the Milton quotation just mentioned, which begins with the eleventh line of the poem, some unseen hand has silently dropped out the following eight lines:

Or whether (as some sager sing)
 The frolic wind that breathes the spring,
 Zephyr with Aurora playing,
 As he met her once a-Maying,
 There on beds of violets blue,
 And fresh-blown roses washed in dew,
 Filled her with thee a daughter fair,
 So buxom, blithe, and debonair.

"In no edition of the Spectator that I have seen (first, collected or reprint) is there any typographic admission that something has been left out. Unanimity on this point is so complete that I examined early editions of the poem on the chance that there might be some authority for Addison's text, but there isn't. The possibility that he had used a corrupt text was examined and dismissed.

"The conclusion seems inescapable that Addison (or the printer) left out the lines on purpose. I am inclined to eliminate the printer because Addison could have restored deleted lines when he revised for the collected edition. But what was Addison's motive? It is true that the lines in question are slightly irrelevant to the description of mirth. But then there was no need to conceal the omission, and the practice, usual in that time and this, of using ellipsis marks, could have been followed. Since there are no such marks, it is likely that concealment was intended. And the reason? Apparently it was done at the urging of that delicacy of morals which made Addison's work so attractive to nineteenth-century readers. The procedure is remarkable because the lines are quite free of anything but conventional literary eroticism and Addison's readers had been used to much stronger stuff. It seems curious that this stratagem should have gone unnoticed by Addison's many editors."

AUGUSTAN REPRINT SOCIETY

Notice of the following ARS publications arrived too late for our June issue: No. 69, An Historical View ... of the Political Writers of Great Britain (1740), introd. by Robert L. Haig; No. 70, G. W.: Magazine, or Animadversions on the English Spelling (1703), introd. by David Abercrombie; Nos. 71 and 72, Samuel Johnson, Notes to Shakespeare, Vol. III, Tragedies, edited by Arthur Sherbo. All inquiries concerning these publications should be addressed to The Augustan Reprint Society, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, 2205 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles 18, Calif.

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF EDMUND BURKE

Volume One of the new edition of Burke's Correspondence is to be published in October. We asked Tom Copeland--general editor of the work as well as volume-editor of this first volume--how things are coming along. Copeland spent the summer in Sheffield, England, where most of the recently-opened Burke papers are deposited. He answered our query:

"I can give you news of the first three volumes. Volume One is all bound, stacked and ready at the Cambridge Press; actually printing was completed by the middle of July. Volume Two we had in galleys this summer; it is now corrected and returned to the Press, which ought to guarantee us publication in the spring or at worst the early fall. Volume Three was our main job this summer. Typescript is due at the Press January 1st. We expect to meet that deadline, so the volume should come out not later than the fall of 1960."

The Burke Correspondence is another of our large-scale eighteenth-century projects: not of the magnitude of the Horace Walpole letters, but sizable--ten volumes as now planned. All Burke's own surviving letters will be included, and a fairly large selection of letters written to him. The arrangement will be chronological. Copeland's volume takes up to 1768--that is, to Burke's fortieth year. Volume Two, edited by Miss Lucy Sutherland of Oxford, goes on to 1774; Three, edited by Professor George Guttridge of the University of California, goes on to 1778. The remaining volumes are already

assigned to other American, British and Irish scholars, and are to come out at the rate of one a year until the final index volume.

The long withholding of his papers has kept Burke rather an obscure figure, even to Johnsonians. He is a Name; it is surprising how few of the details of his life are known. A complete and fully-annotated Correspondence should change all that. Burke corresponded with about 1200 people of whom we know. It's time we examined his relationships, for the light they cast both upon his own personality and upon the circle of great men among whom he lived.

NEWS ABOUT DEFOE

From John Robert Moore (Indiana) we have received further information about plans for celebrating in 1960 the tercentenary of the birth of Defoe. He writes that among those libraries which have been making plans for the anniversary are the Stoke Newington Central Lending Library, located on the same street where Defoe lived when he wrote Robinson Crusoe; the National Library of Scotland, adjacent to Parliament Close where Defoe aided in passing the Act of Union in 1707; the Senate House Library of the University of London, a university whose establishment Defoe advocated two hundred and thirty years ago; the Boston Public Library, with the great Trent Collection and the largest Defoe holdings in America; and Indiana University, which will open its Lilly Rare Book Library with an exhibit of the fifth largest Defoe collection in the world.

By the time this issue has reached you Moore's Daniel Defoe: Citizen of the Modern World (Univ. of Chicago Press) will have appeared. We will have more to say about it in a later issue. As the sub-title suggests, the book emphasizes Defoe's public career and the influence of his ideas in the modern world. Moore writes that he has based his work upon much new material: since William Lee's Life in 1869 some 300 new titles have been added to the canon. In addition, he has drawn upon hitherto unknown autobiographical fragments and upon new documents procured from Somerset House and the Middlesex Guildhall. Two features are a detailed index and a chronological outline of the times and places of the principal

events in Defoe's life. We look forward eagerly to this culmination of thirty years' work.

SOME RECENT ARTICLES

For the Restoration and early eighteenth century: Rexmond C. Cochrane, "Francis Bacon in Early Eighteenth-Century Literature," PQ for Jan.; A. LeRoy Greason, Jr., "Fielding's The History of the Present Rebellion in Scotland," PQ for Jan.; Darwin T. Turner, "The Servant in the Comedies of William Congreve," CLA Journal for Mar.; Earl R. Wasserman, "The Meaning of 'Poland' in The Medal," MLN for March.

Concerned with Pope: N.W. Bawcutt, "More Echoes in Pope's Poetry," N&Q for May; Walter L. Crittenden, "The Letters of Alexander Pope," a review in The Personalist for Jan.; David Foxon, "Two Cruces in Pope Bibliography," TLS, Jan. 24, 1958; Ralph N. Maud, "Some Lines From Pope," RES for May.

Having to do with Swift: R. G. Geering, "Swift's Struldbruggs: the Critics Considered," in AUMLA, Journ. of the Australasian Universities Lang. and Lit. Ass'n, Nov. 1957; Mackie L. Jarrell, "The Handwriting of the Lilliputians," PQ for Jan.; Maurice Johnson, "The Structural Impact of A Modest Proposal," Bucknell Review for May; Edward Wasiolek, "Relativity in Gulliver's Travels," PQ for January.

For the later period: Désirée Hirst, "New Light on William Blake," The Month for Jan.; George B. Schick, "Joseph Warton's Conceptions of the Qualities of a True Poet," Boston Univ. Studies in English for Summer 1957; Robert R. Wark, "A Minor Blake Conundrum," HLQ for Nov. 1957.

Concerned with the novel: Curtis Dahl, "Patterns of Disguise in The Vicar of Wakefield," ELH for June; Dick Taylor, Jr., "Joseph as Hero in Joseph Andrews," in Tulane Studies in English (Vol. VII) for 1957; C.J. Rawson, "Tristram Shandy and Candide," N&Q for May.

Of general interest are: M.A. Goldberg, "Wit and Imagination in Eighteenth-Century Aesthetics" in The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism for June 1958; René Wellek, "Comment on Sven Eric Molin's 'Criticism in Vacuo'," Univ. of Kansas City Review for Summer 1958 (an answer to Molin's review of Wellek's History of Modern Criticism; Johnson's criticism is a major point in the controversy).